

## **General Tour Information**

The Mid-Continent Ecology Division (MED) welcomes visitors to observe and learn about the research activities at this facility, and encourages the staff to participate as stewards for activities promoting environmental awareness. The following guidelines are recommended.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Public and private senior high school science classes and clubs; technical, college, and university classes; and other organizations with specific interests in environmental research issues are welcome. Because of the technical nature of the subject matter and possible safety hazards, routine lab tours will be available to groups of grade 10 (15-16 years old) and older. Grades 10, 11, and 12 require one adult to accompany each group of eight students. Tours for groups with younger participants may be accepted under special circumstances (e.g., during open houses, workshops, or special events). Each member of the tour group **MUST** adhere to laboratory Health and Safety policies which include wearing the furnished safety glasses. Those wearing shorts or open-toed or clog style shoes will not be allowed into the laboratories.

**TYPES OF TOURS:** There are generally two types of laboratory tours: the general tour (schools, colleges, public groups, etc.) and the specialized tour (scientific societies, program offices, special visitors, etc.) Each group is addressed below.

- A. General Tour: All groups meeting the eligibility requirements will be offered a general tour of the laboratory consisting of:
  - 1) A short introductory presentation to inform visitors of the laboratory mission and goals, and the means to attain these goals. This presentation is given by the Outreach Coordinator (OC) or appointed staff, and may also be provided as a slide show or video tape format.
  - 2) A guided tour of the laboratory facility that will present, in greater detail, the research programs in progress.
  - 3) A series of two to four stops during the guided tour, at previously determined laboratory rooms or other locations (e.g., R/V Lake Explorer), to showcase some of the materials and methods used for research at the facility.
  - 4) A demonstration of appropriate educational units (optional).
- B. Specialized Tour: The content of this tour is left to the discretion of those individuals (specific interest group, laboratory employee) requesting the tour, but the tour will follow all laboratory standard operating procedures for safe access to all areas. Participants in the tour often would like to talk with the scientists; therefore, it is necessary to tailor the tour to the group. Additional activities (i.e., informational presentations, demonstrations of educational units) may be included in the tour.

**CANCELLATIONS:** Groups that must cancel their scheduled tour should do so as far in advance as possible. This can be done by writing, calling, or e-mailing the Outreach Coordinator.